

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 13, as follows:

This application derives priority from USSN 60/080,616, filed April 3, ~~1999~~ 1998, and incorporated by reference. Applications USSN 08/797,812, filed February 7, 1997, now U.S. patent 6,228,575; USSN 60/011,339, filed ~~08-Feb.~~ February 8, 1996; USSN 60/012,631, filed 01 March 1, 1996; USSN 08/629,031, filed 08 April 8, 1996, now abandoned; and USSN 60/017,765, filed 15 May 15, 1996 are directed to related subject matter. These applications are specifically incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12, as follows:

One example of an algorithm that is suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity is the BLAST algorithm, which is described in Altschul *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410 (1990). Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (~~www.ncbi.nlm.nih-dot-gov~~ (replacing “dot” before “gov” with a period)). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence, which either match or satisfy some positive valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul *et al.*, *supra*). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are then extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Cumulative scores are calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always > 0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always < 0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix is used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T, and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, and expectation (E) of 10, a cutoff of 100, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the

BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (*see* Henikoff & Henikoff (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:10915).